



Approved For Release 2002/09/05 : CIA-RDP78-00300R000100010052-4

# *EMPLOYEE BULLETIN*

STATINTL

28 February 1975

## COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

As you are aware, the President on 4 January 1975 established a Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States to look into allegations that certain Agency activities conducted within this country exceeded our charter and statutory authority.

Upon completion of its inquiry, the Commission will issue its findings and submit recommendations to the President and to the Director of Central Intelligence.

The President has directed that the Agency extend support and assistance to the Commission, and I have pledged my cooperation to the Commission and its Staff.

I have also told the Commission that any current employee of the Agency is available to the Commission and its Staff for discussions.

The Agency and the Commission Staff have now developed sufficient working experience so that we can design additional procedures to facilitate the Staff's work in examining topics of concern.

All members of the Commission Staff have received security clearances and have been given badges providing them with access to Agency offices in the Washington, D. C. area.

The Commission Staff will, during their inquiries in CIA Headquarters Area Offices, be given access to Agency files related to the Commission's fields of responsibility. The use of specific sensitive data from these files in any unclassified report by the Commission will be subject to consultation between the Director and the Commission.

To facilitate interviews by the Commission Staff Officers with CIA employees, I have advised the Commission that employees are authorized to furnish classified information with certain exceptions. My letter to the Vice President, the Chairman of the Commission, is attached. It sets forth guidelines for the furnishing of classified information.

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The cooperative spirit of our relationship with the Commission and its Staff must at the same time take account of the rights of Agency employees. Like other citizens, they have the right to remain silent. The Commission Staff will advise employees of their rights at the beginning of any interview or other appearance.

My own belief, after careful review of all activities in question, is that legal action will not be taken against individuals. The final decision, however, must rest with the Department of Justice and other legal authorities and risk of such action is a judgment each employee must make for himself.

When a current Agency employee is asked to be interviewed by a member of the Commission Staff, the Staff member may notify Mr. E. H. Knoche who is my Assistant in charge of liaison with the Commission and its Staff. Mr. Knoche, in turn, will notify the employee. The purpose of this is in no way to inhibit the work of Staff members. It is intended to allow time for the employee to gain general legal guidance if he wants it, and to obtain security guidance from an appropriate senior officer.

There is no requirement that an employee report to his supervisor or other Agency authorities on the nature of the interview. This is a matter of the employee's choice.

In arranging the interviews, I am acutely aware of the need to avoid the appearance as well as the fact of collusion between Agency and employee. None of us has any intention to fabricate or mislead. I am convinced that being forthcoming will vindicate the Agency and its eminent service to our country.

In keeping with long-standing policy, employees with any knowledge of activities conducted within the United States, now or in the past, which they believe to be of a questionable nature can follow the customary practice within the Agency of calling the matter to my attention or that of the Inspector General. This will permit me to take appropriate policy actions with regard to any such activities. It will also ensure my ability to continue to be forthcoming with all those involved in external reviews of Agency activities.

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Employees should also feel free to bring any such matters directly to the attention of the Commission or the Commission Staff outside of Agency channels if they so desire. In doing so, however, employees should bear in mind that the Commission's field of interest is CIA activities within this country.

To contact the Commission, employees can call the Executive Director, Mr. David W. Belin on 456-7010, or the Counsel, Mr. Marvin Gray, Jr., on 456-7014. The mail address is:

Commission on CIA Activities  
Within the United States  
712 Jackson Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Names of the members of the Commission Staff and their badge numbers are attached.



W. E. Colby  
Director

Attachment a/s

DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES

5 February 1975

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Chairman, Commission on CIA Activities  
Within the United States  
712 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As you are aware, all employees of the Central Intelligence Agency are required to sign secrecy agreements when they enter on duty. This is a condition of employment, and it requires that they keep forever secret all classified information gained during the course of their employment. The secrecy agreement further requires that they may not disclose classified information in interviews or by publication without prior authorization from the Director of Central Intelligence. There is a provision in the secrecy agreement that the conditions and obligations with respect to the protection of classified information by the agreement continue after employment with the Agency has been terminated.

As I have stated to the Commission, I will make available any employee of this Agency to the Commission for staff interview and for testimony before the Commission. This letter will serve as authorization for any such employees or ex-employees to furnish information as requested by the Commission or its staff on matters that may be classified. As has been discussed with the Commission, there are certain sensitive items which should receive special handling. Such items include names of sources, specific details of technical devices and systems maintained in compartmented channels by the Agency, names of employees, names of persons who may be targets of kidnapping or assassination by foreign intelligence organizations, names of organizations cooperating with the Agency, and detailed information which would pinpoint any of the above. Some information might also conflict with a subject's right of privacy.

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There is no purpose here to impede in any way the Commission's investigation. I believe, however, in most cases these specific identifying names and details are not necessary for an understanding of our activities. Where the Commission or the staff believes that specific identification is necessary to the purpose of the testimony or the staff interrogation, the matter will be discussed between the Commission and the Agency, and I will be prepared to consult with you and the Commission to determine the course of action to be taken. Where in the judgment of the employee a specific identification is especially sensitive as outlined in this paragraph, an identity number will be assigned pending resolution of the matter between the Commission and the Agency, and in the meantime the identity will not be divulged by the employee.

I appreciate the cooperation of the Commission and of Agency employees in this regard. I am still responsible under the statute and as a professional for the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. In many situations the inadvertent disclosure of a name or identification could have serious repercussions, including placing lives in jeopardy, and I cannot in good conscience put such information at risk.

This arrangement of course does not affect the Commission's procedures for advising prospective witnesses of their rights, securing waivers, nor the employee's or ex-employee's right not to answer certain questions if they are concerned that the answers might tend to incriminate them.

Respectfully,



W. E. Colby  
Director

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BADGES ASSIGNED TO MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON  
CIA DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Belin, David W.	PC-100
Baker, Harold A.	PC-101
Cargill, Robert Mason	PC-102
Clapper, Peter R.	PC-103
Gellhorn, Ernest A.	PC-104
Gray, Marvin Jr.	PC-105
Greene, Ronald	PC-107
Hardy, Timothy S.	PC-108
Manfredi, George A.	PC-109
Olsen, Robert B.	PC-110
Wallison, Peter James	PC-111
Schwarzer, William W.	PC-112
Roethe, James N.	PC-113
Weidner, James B.	PC-114